

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (Amended) A method for efficiently integrating wireless and wireline functions within a communications network, comprising the steps of:

- integrating an asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure with said communications network;
- linking said wireless and wireline functions to and from said communications network via said asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure utilizing a network access function within a network edge switch; and
- transmitting wireless and wireline data to said network access function to allow wireless and wireline data to flow to and from said communications network;
- determining target recipients for each wireless and wireline data received in a first communication protocol; and
- converting within said network access function said wireless and wireline data to a second communication protocol appropriate for said target recipient.

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2. (Cancelled).

3. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

- utilizing multiple functions within said network access function for consolidating and interfacing signal traffic to and from said communications network.

4. (Cancelled).

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5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

- transferring said wireless and wireline data to said asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure from said network access function.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of integrating an asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure with said communications network, further comprises:

integrating an asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure with said communications network, wherein said asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure comprises an asynchronous transfer mode fabric interfaced with an asynchronous transfer mode gateway.

7. (Amended) A system for efficiently integrating wireless and wireline functions within a communications network, comprising:

said communications network;

an asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure for transmitting signals within said communications network;

a network edge switch for linking said wireless and wireline functions to and from said communications network via said asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure utilizing a network access function within said network edge switch;

transmitting means for transmitting wireless and wireline data to said network access function to allow wireless and wireline data to flow to and from said communications network;

means for determining target recipients for each wireless and wireline data received in a first communication protocol; and

means for converting within said network access function said wireless and wireline data to a second communication protocol appropriate for said target recipient.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Unchanged) The system of claim 7, further comprising:

multiple functions within said network access function for consolidating and interfacing signal traffic to and from said communications network.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Unchanged) The system of claim 9, further comprising:
transferring said wireless and wireline data to said asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure from said network access function.

12. (Unchanged) The system of claim 9, wherein integrating an asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure with said communications network, further comprises:

integrating an asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure with said communications network, wherein said asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure comprises an asynchronous transfer mode fabric interfaced with an asynchronous transfer mode gateway.

13. (Amended) A program of instructions, within instruction bearing media associated with a telecommunication system for efficiently integrating wireless and wireline functions within a communications network, comprising:

instructions within said instruction bearing media for integrating an asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure with said communications network;

instructions within said instruction bearing media for linking said wireless and wireline functions to and from said communications network via said asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure utilizing a network access function within a network edge switch;

instructions within said instruction bearing media for transmitting wireless and wireline data to said network access function to allow wireless and wireline data to flow to and from said communications network;

instructions within said instruction bearing media for determining target recipients for each wireless and wireline data received in a first communication protocol; and

instructions within said instruction bearing media for converting within said network access function said wireless and wireline data to a second communication protocol appropriate for a target recipient.

14. (Cancelled).

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15. (Unchanged) The program of instructions of claim 13, further comprising:
instructions within said instruction bearing media for utilizing multiple functions within
said network access function for consolidating and interfacing signal traffic to and from said
communications network.

16. ~~(Cancelled).~~

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17. (Amended) The program of instructions of claim [15]13, further comprising:
instructions within said instruction bearing media for transferring said wireless and
wireline data to said asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure from said network access
function.

18. (Unchanged) The program of instructions of claim 13, wherein instructions for
integrating an asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure with said communications network,
further comprises:

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instructions within said instruction bearing media for integrating an asynchronous
transfer mode infrastructure with said communications network, wherein said asynchronous
transfer mode infrastructure comprises an asynchronous transfer mode fabric interfaced with
asynchronous transfer mode gateway.